

NOTES ON THE BUTTERFLY, *CATOPSILIA SCYLLA*
GORGOPHONE, F. HINDA BUTLER

(Lepidoptera, Pieridae)

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This butterfly was originally described by Butler (1) in 1870 as a form of *Catopsilia pomona pomona* Fabr., and was catalogued as such by Waterhouse and Lyell (2) in 1914; but in 1932, Waterhouse (3) includes this form under *C. scylla gorgophone* Boisd.

The following notes made from actual field observations and breeding experiments by the writer at Westwood, 30 miles west of Rockhampton, on the central Queensland railway, will clearly show that f. *hinda* Butler is really a form of *C. scylla gorgophone*.

Both *C. pomona* and *C. scylla gorgophone* occur abundantly in this locality, the former species at times in great flights the general direction of which is from north to south. *C. scylla gorgophone* occurs freely during the months of October, January and March, though specimens are to be collected from September until May.

The larvae of each species feed on different species of Cassia; those of *C. pomona* on *Cassia fistula* (introduced) and on a native species, and *C. scylla gorgophone* on *Cassia glauca*. Many hundred *C. pomona* were bred from larvae and pupae taken from the food plants, and from these were obtained many interesting varieties, including the female form *catilla* and intergrades between this form and the normal female, but no *hinda*.

A number of different batches of larvae of *C. scylla gorgophone* was also bred through, and four *hinda* in all were obtained. During the same season, another *hinda* was captured flying with *gorgophone*. The writer has observed occasional specimens of *gorgophone* flying with *C. pomona* during a "flight." Such flights consist of all possible forms of *pomona*, and twice only has *C. gorgophone hinda* been identified in one of these flights. Their occurrence together cannot therefore be taken as supposing *hinda* to be a form of *C. pomona*.

During these mass occurrences of *C. pomona* it was possible to examine many hundreds of specimens as they were settled on the undersides of leaves and shrubs, but no specimen of *hinda* was ever seen. In the race *crocale* of *C. pomona* the antennae are black, those of *pomona pomona*, *C. scylla gorgophone* and *hinda*, are pinkish, and in the latter, the undersides of the wings have a definite pink suffusion which makes this form easily recognizable.

C. scylla gorgophone hinda has been recorded from Brisbane, Rockhampton (Jones), Bondoola (Jones) and Westwood, Queensland.

REFERENCES

- (1) 1870. *Lepidoptera exotica*, p. 31, pl. 12, fig. 9, 10.
- (2) 1914. *The Butterflies of Australia*. Waterhouse and Lyell, G. Angus & Robertson, Sydney.
- (3) 1932. Waterhouse, G. A. *What Butterfly is that?* Angus & Robertson, Sydney.